Fisher Midgett

K. Mount

English 11

22 March 2012

Outside Reading Essay

For my outside reading project, I did the novel “The Yearling” by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. The book was based on a young boy named Jody, who goes through many challenges growing up. His parents are named Ori and Penny and they all live in a cabin in Florida. Jody finds a fawn buck that he names Flag, which the book is created on. Flag and Jody go through many adventures, but Jody ends up having to kill him to save the family farm.

One literary element found in “The Yearling” is symbolism. Symbolism is how the author represents something with symbols. Symbols are things that stand for one thing, but also represent something greater. One example of a symbol in the story “The Yearling” is the old bear named Slewfoot. Jody and Penny call the bear Slewfoot because he has a long big toe on one of his feet. The bear has often killed cows and other livestock from the family’s farm and Penny and Jody have tried to kill it many times. They could not kill it no matter how long they tracked the bear. Finally, they killed the bear at the end of the novel, and they were very happy. The bear symbolizes the family’s ability to not give up, even after many failures. Persevering is a hard thing to do, when giving up seems so easy.

Another literary element in the novel was the imagery that took place. The author seemed to tell the story in her own words, as if she were describing it first-hand. This made me feel as if I was in the novel with the main characters and going on adventures with them. When the author tells you more imagery, it will give the reader a better idea of what is happening and what the characters are going through. One example of imagery in “The Yearling” is when the author describes how the fawn looked when Jody first found him. Telling of the fawn with imagery explains to the reader what a young fawn looks like. Another example of imagery in “The Yearling” was when Penny was bitten by the rattlesnake as he was walking down the trail. The author describes the scene as if it had happened in slow motion, and you would be right there with them witnessing it.

A final literary element in “The Yearling” was the tone. The tone was very appropriate to the situation in the novel. The author created a bad tone when bad things happened and a good tone when good things happened. One example of tone in “The Yearling” was when Jody and Penny finally killed Slewfoot. The tone was of great happiness and also joy, that they finally killed him. Another example of tone in the novel was when Jody’s fawn ate all of the season’s corn stalks. The tone that was created was of sorrow and then anger from Jody’s parents. The tone can convey the feelings that the authors wants to tell the audience.

For my outside reading project, I did the novel “The Yearling” by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. The book was based on a young boy named Jody, who goes through many challenges growing up. The author had many types of literary elements in the novel. Three examples of these were symbolism, imagery, and tone. Symbolism is how the author represents something with symbols. Imagery is language that evokes one of the five senses. Tone is the attitude a writer takes towards a subject or character. These literary elements make the story better and easier to understand for the reader. I hope you can enjoy this book as much as I did.